

HISTORY OF THE DIVISION OF EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

During the Winter Quarter of the academic year 1961-62 a course in elementary Chinese was offered by William S-y Wang in the Department of English; the Division of East Asian Languages and Literatures was established the same year with Wang as chairman and provided offices in a by-then dilapidated wing of University Hall (scheduled for razing in the early 70's). With the appointment, during the same quarter, of Eugene Ching as Assistant Professor in Chinese and Charles Fillmore as an Assistant Professor in Linguistics, a B.A. program in Chinese and Japanese was initiated. Professor Fillmore set up the elementary Japanese course.

Professor Ching spent the summer of 1963 teaching advanced Chinese in the CIC Far Eastern Language Institute begun at the University of Michigan that year. Professor Ching's connection with this roving summer institute (held on a different campus every year) would be a long and fruitful one; he would serve as assistant director of the summer institute held at Indiana University (1964) and as director of the one held on the campus of O.S.U. in the summer of 1965; he would also be on the staffs of the summer institutes for 1966 (University of Minnesota), 1967 (University of Michigan), and 1969 (Indiana University).

In the Autumn Quarter of 1963 Professor Ching was made chairman for the East Asian Languages and Literatures program under the Asian Division which was then chaired by Professor Lawrence Krader of the Slavic Department. During that same quarter Mantaro Hashimoto and William A. Lyell were named instructors in East Asian Languages and Literatures; Hashimoto was charged with

teaching Chinese linguistics and Japanese language courses and Lyell was given responsibility for Chinese language and literature courses.

In the fall of 1964 Wen-yu Yen was appointed as part-time faculty member to teach Chinese bibliography in the East Asian Division (1/4 time); he concurrently headed the Main Library's program in building up an East Asian collection (3/4 time). In the summer of 1965, however, Professor Yen switched his commitment to full time in the Library. In the Spring Quarter of 1964 the Division's first B.A. in Chinese was graduated.

In the autumn of 1965 Harold Wright was appointed an instructor in the Division with responsibility for teaching Japanese language and literature.

Professor Tieh-han Chao of Provincial Normal University in Taiwan was in residence for 1966-67 as visiting professor of Chinese.

In the autumn of 1967 David Y. Ch'en was invited to join the staff as Associate Professor of Chinese Literature. The M.A. program in Chinese was implemented at the same time. During the 1967-68 academic year major curricular revision and expansion took place. Professor Ch'en served as Acting Chairman of the Division the following academic year (1968-69; Professor Ching was on leave to spend a year in Taiwan with a Fullbright-Hays grant).

In the autumn of 1968 Yan-shuan Lao was appointed as Associate Professor in the Division to teach Classical Chinese and Bibliography, and Kunio Okuda was named Assistant Professor of Japanese linguistics. At the same time Hao Chang, a new faculty member in the Department of History, offered a course in History of Chinese Thought in the Division's Chinese curriculum. Professor Jun-sun Mou of New Asia College, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, visited the Division during the Winter and Spring Quarters of 1969 and taught in the Chinese program. During the same academic year (1968-69) the Division graduated

its first B.A. in Japanese and its first M.A. in Chinese. There were 136 students enrolled in Chinese and 30 enrolled in Japanese courses Autumn Quarter 1969. Of those enrolled in 1969 there were 2 undergraduate majors in Japanese, 5 undergraduate majors in Chinese and 8 M.A. candidates in Chinese. By June of 1969 our library collection amounted to 33,572 volumes in Chinese, 1,846 volumes in Japanese and 53 volumes in Korean. The Division offered a varied program of extra-curricular events during 1969 consisting of lectures, readings, a slide presentation, a dance program, and a film showing.

The 1968-69 faculty recruiting efforts resulted in the appointment of Tien-yi Li as Merston Professor of Chinese Literature and History in the summer of 1969. Li brought with him the Tsing Hua Journal of Chinese Studies, a leading academic journal of which he had been the editor-in-chief and secretary for over a decade, to be edited at The Ohio State University.

During this Centennial year a Ph.D. in Chinese program and an M.A. in Japanese program are being proposed; preparations are being made to change the Division's status to that of a department; Study Tours of Japan and Taiwan will be realized in the Spring Quarter of 1970 under the direction of Dean Leon Twarog of the Office of International Program; negotiations for exchange activities are being made between this University and the Chinese University of Hong Kong (one Japanese major was sent to Keio University in Japan last year on an exchange basis); and an interdisciplinary program in East Asian studies is being organized by the Division's newly appointed director Samuel Chu. It is expected that the Division will play an important part in the undertakings of this new program.

Plans for future development include implementation of Korean and Mongolian courses and a certificate program in college teaching of Chinese as a

foreign language, publication of a monograph series on East Asian literatures, organization of a conference on East Asian humanities, and expansion of East Asian library collection to 100,000 volumes. With sufficient funds, these plans can be carried out, not in the next centenary, but in the next few years.